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# Job Vacancies, Australia

Results of the quarterly Job Vacancies Survey containing estimates of job vacancies classified by industry, sector and state/territory.

Reference period November 2020

Released 13/01/2021

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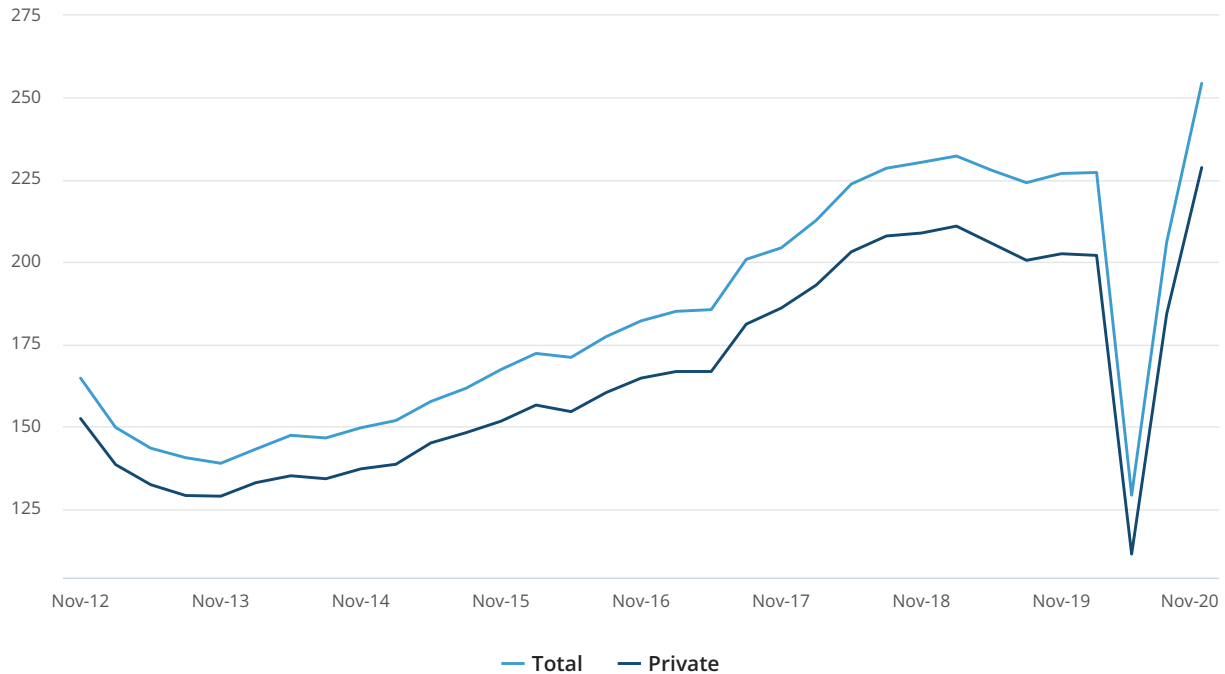
## Key statistics

The seasonally adjusted estimates for the November 2020 quarter are as follows :

- Total job vacancies were 254,400, an increase of 23.4% from August 2020.
- Private sector vacancies were 228,800, an increase of 24.2% from August 2020.
- Public sector vacancies were 25,600, an increase of 16.9% from August 2020.

	Nov 2020 ('000)	Aug 2020 to Nov 2020 (%) change)	Nov 2019 to Nov 2020 (%) change)
Private sector	228.8	24.2	12.9
Public sector	25.6	16.9	4.8
Private and public sectors	254.4	23.4	12.1

## Job vacancies ('000) total & private sector - seasonally adjusted



## Survey Impacts

### Continued suspension of trend estimates

Given the extent of change in the Job Vacancies time series, the ABS temporarily suspended trend series and moved to using forward factors for seasonal adjustment for a range of series, including some job vacancies estimates. For more information, please refer to: [Spotlight: Job Vacancies Survey Methods During COVID-19 \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/job-vacancies-australia/may-2020#spotlight-job-vacancies-survey-methods-during-covid-19\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/job-vacancies-australia/may-2020#spotlight-job-vacancies-survey-methods-during-covid-19).

### Survey responses remain high in November

Responses for the Job Vacancies Survey November 2020 quarter remained high, with similar levels of responses to previous quarters. The ABS would like to thank the Australian

business community for their continued support in responding to our surveys during such a difficult time, given how critically important this information is.

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## Comparing job vacancies with other measures of labour demand

In addition to Job Vacancies, there are a number of non-ABS measures that measure labour demand using alternative concepts, sources and methods. These are also widely used as leading indicators of employment. Prominent examples include the ANZ Job Advertisement Series, the SEEK Employment Report, and the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's Internet Vacancy Index.

Measures of job vacancies and job advertisements will differ for a number of reasons. One of the key differences is that job vacancies includes jobs for which job advertisements are undertaken but also include jobs where other recruitment approaches are exclusively used, such as word of mouth or social media. According to the National Skills Commission's Survey of Employer's Recruitment Experience, 19 per cent of jobs are not advertised (i.e. recruitment is done through word of mouth alone or by considering people who approach the business). For further details on recruitment practices, please see the [Survey of Employer's Recruitment Experiences 2019 Data Report \(https://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/GainInsights/EmployersRecruitmentInsights\)](https://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/GainInsights/EmployersRecruitmentInsights).

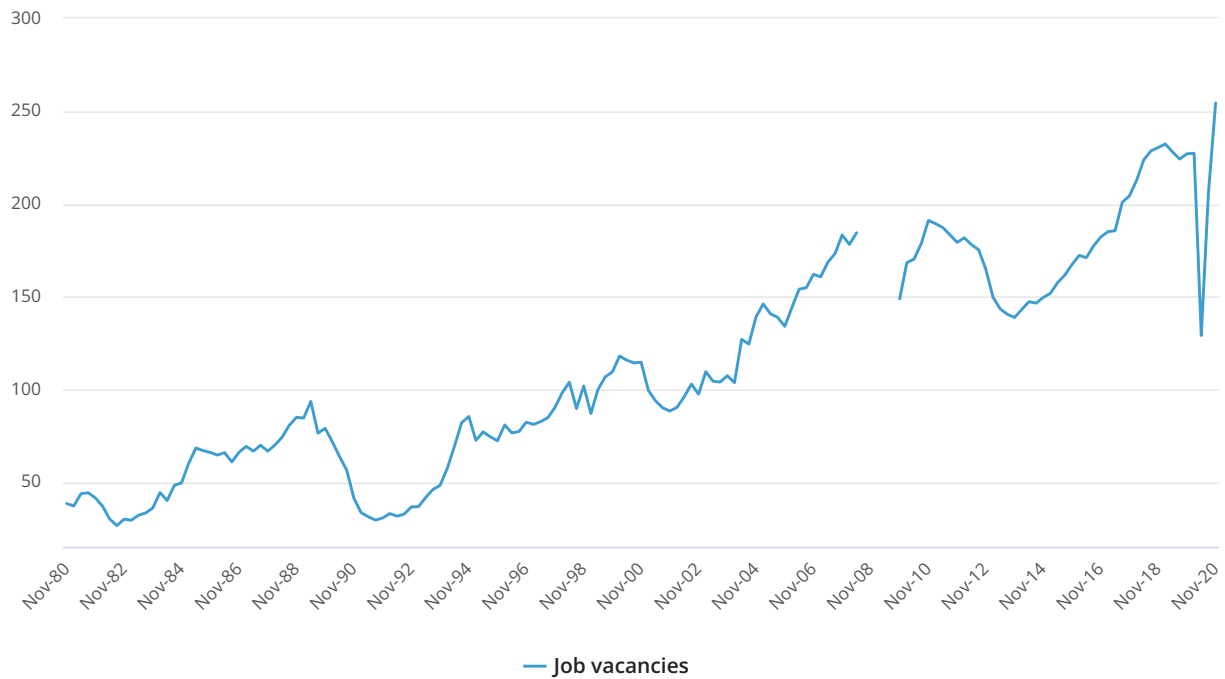
Furthermore, job vacancies count every position advertised within a single notice, while some job advertisements may be used to fill multiple positions.

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## COVID-19 impacts on job vacancies

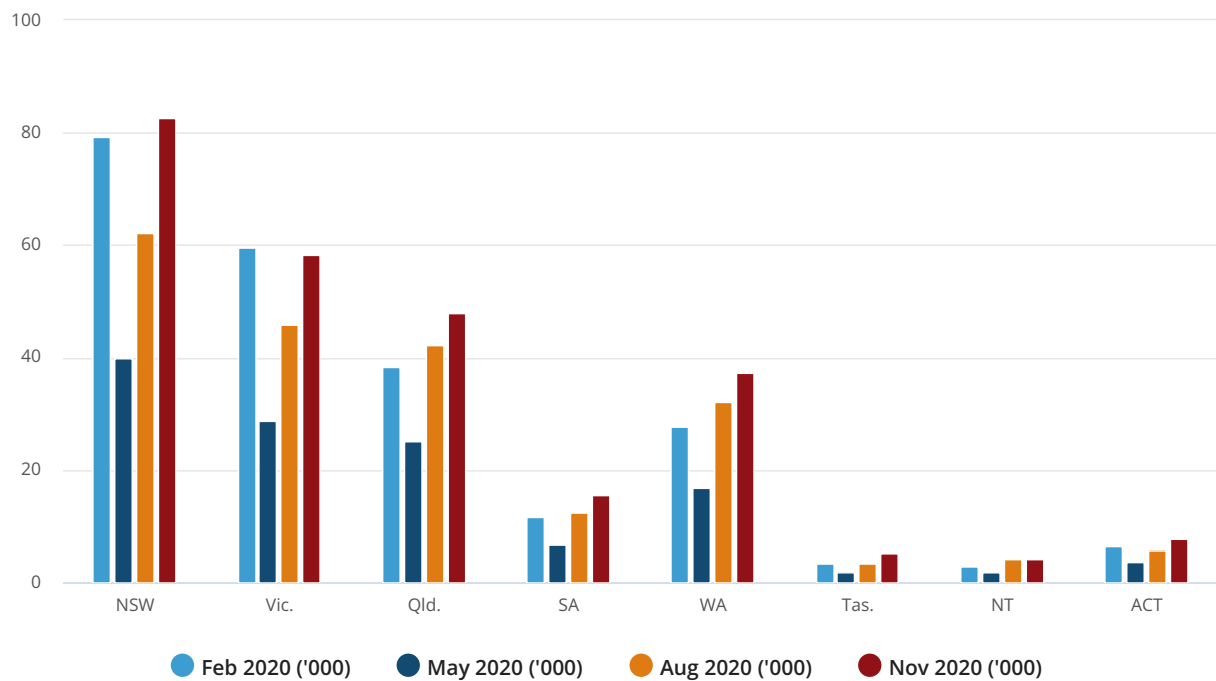
Job vacancies increased by 23.4% (48,200 vacancies) in the three months to November 2020 (seasonally adjusted). This follows the largest fall in job vacancies in the history of the series in May 2020, a reflection of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions on people and businesses.

## Job vacancies ('000), Australia - seasonally adjusted



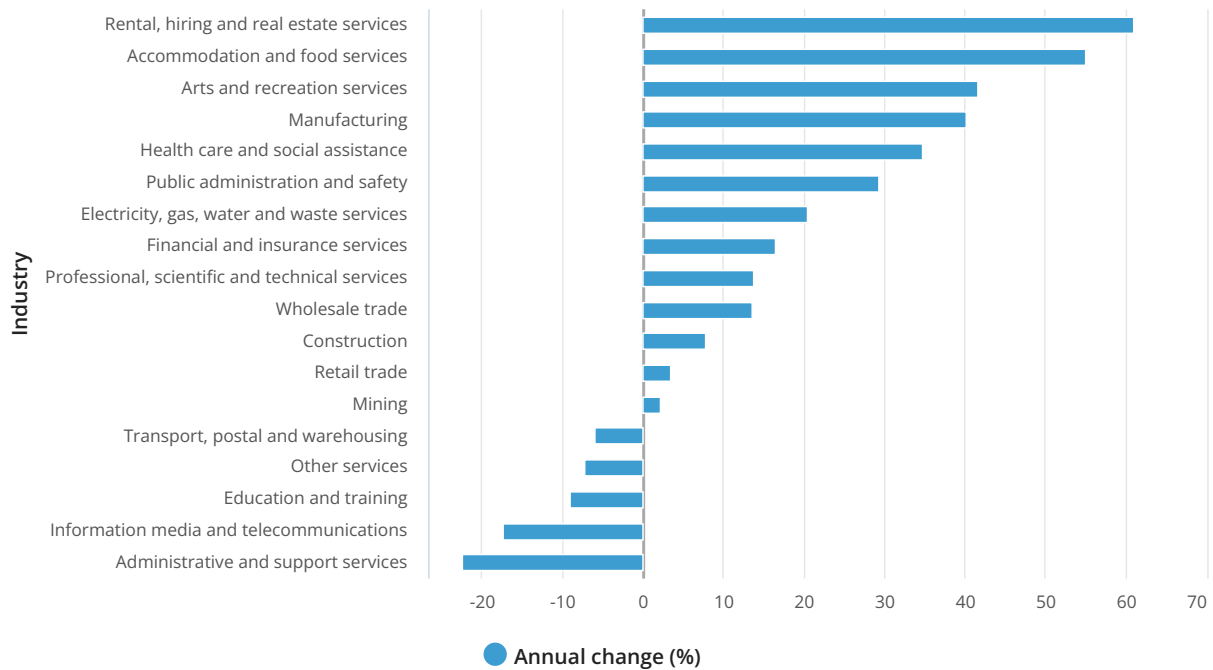
All states and territories recorded increases in job vacancies in November 2020 compared with August 2020 and all states and territories, with the exception of Victoria, surpassed the pre-pandemic levels of vacancies in February 2020. The slight lag in the recovery of Victoria's job vacancies reflects the second wave of COVID-19 experienced in the state.

## Job vacancies, states comparison during COVID-19 - original



The chart below shows the annual percentage change in job vacancies by industry. Vacancies in many industries surpassed the pre-pandemic levels of February, reflecting changes in COVID-19 restrictions and labour shortages in some industries.

## Job vacancies, annual change by industry - original



While not a regular output from the survey, a measure of the number of businesses reporting any vacancies also shows the extent of the acute reduction in labour demand in May 2020, as well as the subsequent recovery to November 2020. In May 2020, a much lower proportion of businesses reported at least one vacancy (6.5%). By November 2020, this had increased to 14.7% of businesses compared with 14.0% in the previous November.

## Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies - industry

	Nov-20	May-20	Nov-19
Mining	16.3%	8.3%	11.0%
Manufacturing	14.6%	4.4%	11.1%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	18.5%	11.8%	11.6%
Construction	13.0%	4.6%	14.0%
Wholesale trade	17.8%	14.1%	14.7%
Retail trade	17.8%	9.7%	16.8%

	Nov-20	May-20	Nov-19
Accommodation and food services	16.9%	2.3%	16.1%
Transport, postal and warehousing	4.3%	4.1%	2.1%
Information media and telecommunications	14.0%	7.0%	5.6%
Financial and insurance services	15.7%	5.0%	12.8%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	12.8%	4.1%	10.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	14.2%	9.2%	11.4%
Administrative and support services	18.9%	7.8%	31.6%
Public administration and safety	35.4%	22.6%	31.5%
Education and training	5.2%	4.0%	11.0%
Health care and social assistance	13.6%	6.5%	13.6%
Arts and recreation services	21.0%	0.5%	5.4%
Other services	16.7%	5.6%	16.1%
All Industries	14.7%	6.5%	14.0%

## Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies - states and territories

	Nov-20	May-20	Nov-19
New South Wales	15.1%	5.8%	15.1%
Victoria	15.5%	6.0%	13.8%
Queensland	12.9%	10.5%	13.7%
South Australia	9.1%	2.9%	11.2%
Western Australia	16.7%	5.5%	11.7%
Tasmania	14.2%	4.5%	14.7%
Northern Territory	21.0%	6.7%	23.7%
Australian Capital Territory	17.3%	3.5%	10.4%
Australia	14.7%	6.5%	14.0%

## States and territories

## Job vacancies ('000), states and territories

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	72.8	61.2	39.1	11.3	26.4	3.6	4.3	7.6	226.3	224.2
Nov-19	80.2	60.1	39.2	11.4	25.7	3.6	3.5	7.7	231.4	227
Feb-20	79.3	59.7	38.4	11.7	27.6	3.4	2.9	6.6	229.5	227.3
May-20	39.8	28.7	25.2	6.8	16.8	1.9	1.7	3.6	124.5	129.2
Aug-20	62.2	45.8	42.1	12.5	32.2	3.4	4.2	5.6	208	206.1
Nov-20	82.7	58.4	47.9	15.6	37.4	5.1	4.2	7.9	259.2	254.4

## Change from previous quarter (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	-5.6	1.8	17.9	1.2	13.6	11.3	3.1	12.2	3.3	-1.7
Nov-19	10.1	-1.7	0.2	0.4	-2.6	-0.7	-19.5	2	2.2	1.3
Feb-20	-1.1	-0.8	-2	2.7	7.3	-5.7	-17.8	-13.8	-0.8	0.1
May-20	-49.9	-51.9	-34.3	-41.6	-39.1	-45.7	-39.7	-46.2	-45.8	-43.1
Aug-20	56.4	59.5	67	83.2	91.4	84.7	146.3	57.2	67.1	59.5
Nov-20	32.9	27.6	13.7	24.6	16.2	50.4	0.1	40.4	24.6	23.4

## Change from corresponding quarter of previous year (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Nov-18	6.2	10.8	9	18.1	45.5	39.3	26.1	9.2	12.7	12.7
Nov-19	-4	-2.4	3.7	6.2	-3.9	0.5	-8.9	10.2	-1.4	-1.5
Nov-20	3.1	-2.9	22.4	36.9	45.3	42.1	22.1	2.3	12	12.1

All figures are original unless stated otherwise

Trend figures are not currently available

## Private sector, states and territories

### Job vacancies ('000), private sector - states and territories

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	65.3	55.9	35.3	9.5	24.5	3	3.7	5.1	202.3	200.6
Nov-19	72.2	54.9	35.5	9.5	23.5	2.9	3	5.3	206.7	202.6
Feb-20	71.4	53.7	34.9	10	25.4	2.9	2.1	4.9	205.1	202.1
May-20	33.4	24.3	22.9	5.2	15.4	*1.6	1.3	2.5	106.5	111.3
Aug-20	55	40.6	39.2	10.6	30.2	2.8	3.6	3.7	185.7	184.3
Nov-20	74.4	52.8	44	13.3	35	4.4	3.5	6	233.3	228.8



## Change from previous quarter (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	-6.1	2.4	17.2	-1	12.5	13.2	0.6	5	2.8	-2.5
Nov-19	10.4	-1.8	0.5	-0.5	-3.9	-3.3	-18.4	3.4	2.2	1
Feb-20	-1.1	-2.2	-1.8	5.6	7.9	-0.6	-31.1	-6.2	-0.7	-0.3
May-20	-53.2	-54.8	-34.3	-48.1	-39.2	-46.6	-39	-48.8	-48.1	-44.9
Aug-20	64.5	67.4	71.1	104.7	95.7	82	186.8	46.2	74.3	65.5
Nov-20	35.4	30	12.1	25.2	16.1	53.2	-2.9	62.1	25.6	24.2

## Change from corresponding quarter of previous year (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Nov-18	7	7.9	7.5	13.7	49.3	42.9	26.4	16.7	12.2	12.2
Nov-19	-6.2	-1.3	2.3	3.3	-6	-4.7	-5	-0.5	-2.9	-3
Nov-20	3.2	-3.8	23.9	40.6	49	48.1	16.9	13.9	12.9	12.9

All figures are original unless stated otherwise

Trend figures are not currently available

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

## Public sector, states and territories

### Job vacancies ('000), public sector - states and territories

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	7.5	5.3	3.8	1.8	2	0.6	*0.7	2.5	24	23.5
Nov-19	8	5.2	3.6	1.9	2.2	0.7	0.5	2.5	24.7	24.4
Feb-20	7.9	6	3.5	1.7	2.2	0.5	0.8	1.7	24.4	25.2
May-20	6.3	4.4	2.3	1.6	*1.4	0.3	0.5	1	17.9	17.9
Aug-20	7.2	5.1	2.9	1.8	2	0.6	*0.6	1.9	22.3	21.9
Nov-20	8.2	5.6	3.9	2.2	2.4	0.8	*0.8	1.9	25.8	25.6

## Change from previous quarter (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Aug-19	-1.2	-4.3	24.2	14.6	30.2	2.2	19.7	30.6	8	5.9
Nov-19	7.3	-0.8	-2.9	5.1	14	12.6	-25.4	-0.8	2.7	3.5
Feb-20	-1	14.4	-3.6	-12.1	0.3	-27.7	63	-30	-1.2	3.3
May-20	-20.2	-26.1	-34.3	-2.7	-37.1	-40.8	-41.5	-38.8	-26.5	-28.9
Aug-20	14	16.1	26.4	14.3	43.8	99.1	37.8	83.5	24.6	22
Nov-20	13.9	8.5	34.7	21.2	17.9	36.3	16.7	-1.2	15.7	16.9

## Change from corresponding quarter of previous year (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally Adjusted)
Nov-18	-2.3	48.6	30.6	54.5	7	21.3	24.7	-8.9	17.4	17.6
Nov-19	22.3	-12.7	19.8	23.7	25.5	31.3	-27.4	43	13	13.3
Nov-20	2.6	6.5	7.8	18.4	7	16.3	53.3	-22.4	4.7	4.8

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Trend figures are not currently available

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## Industry

### Job vacancies ('000), industry

	Aug-19	Nov-19	Feb-20	May-20	Aug-20	Nov-20
Mining	6.4	6.2	6.5	4.3	5.6	6.3
Manufacturing	11.6	10.9	12.2	7	13.5	15.3
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	2.2	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.2
Construction	14.9	16.6	16.6	8.3	15.9	17.9
Wholesale trade	10.4	11.8	12.6	6.5	9.9	13.4
Retail trade	22.1	24.8	18.9	11.4	18.5	25.7
Accommodation and food services	14.5	14.5	14.7	*5.0	13.5	22.4
Transport, postal and warehousing	6.4	7.1	7.5	3.3	5.5	6.6
Information media and telecommunications	2.7	3.3	3.4	2	2.4	2.7
Financial and insurance services	12.1	11	11.9	7.8	12.3	12.8
Rental, hiring and real estate services	4.1	2.7	3.2	*1.0	*3.6	4.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	25	23.7	26.3	13.1	23.5	27
Administrative and support services	34.2	34.5	31.2	17.5	24.2	26.8
Public administration and safety	13.2	12.9	13.3	8.6	13.4	16.7
Education and training	6.6	7.3	7.7	3.6	6.4	6.7
Health care and social assistance	27.4	28	29.8	19.7	28.4	37.7
Arts and recreation services	3.6	2.8	2	**0.1	1.2	4
Other services	9	11.4	9.4	*3.6	8.3	10.6

All figures are original

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

## Downloads

### Time series spreadsheets

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Table 1. Job vacancies, state and territories ('000)

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Table 2. Job vacancies, private sector, state and territories ('000)

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Table 3. Job vacancies, public sector, state and territories ('000)

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Table 4. Job vacancies, industry, Australia ('000) - original

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All time series

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### Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6354.0.

## Methodology

[Job Vacancies, Australia methodology, November 2020](#)